

one via Chhapra and other via Narkatiaganj. These 2 lines together serve the purpose of doubling between these points. The patch doubling of Karpurigram-Siho has been sanctioned. Tenders for earthwork for Karpurigram-Siho have been invited. Work will be completed as per availability of resources in the coming years.

Gauge conversion of the MG line between Hajipur and Chhapra has also been sanctioned which when completed would also double the existing single line between these 2 points and would add to the capacity of the section.

Running of Rajdhani Express Through Muzaffarpur

†351. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the demand to run Rajdhani Express through Muzaffarpur and also to provide for its halt there; and

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge Conversion Projects in Assam

352. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending Railway projects for conversion of meter-gauge into broad-gauge in Assam promised in the last year's Railway Budget;

(b) the progress made so far in implementation of the projects in each case;

(c) the funds sanctioned for each of the projects and money actually released and spent thereon; and

(d) the reasons, if any, for delay in completion of the projects?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[23 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In last year's budget speech it was indicated that gauge conversion of the following 2 sections was planned to be completed in 2000-2001:—

(i) Makum-Dongri

(ii) Amguri-Tuli

(b) Work on both these projects is in good progress and they would be completed in the coming months.

(c) An amount of Rs. 10 cr. has been earmarked in Budget 2000-2001 for these works. The expenditure will be known when the accounts for 2000-01 are finalised.

(d) There has been delay on account of law and order situation in the state of Assam and in the case of Amguri-Tuli, due to a stay by the courts, which has since been got vacated and work is now in progress.

Loss to Railways due to Gujarat Earthquake

353. **SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway lines/tracks, bridges, railway stations, staff quarters were destroyed in recent earthquake in Gujarat on 26th January, 2001;

(b) what is the estimated loss of Railway property;

(c) how many railway employees were killed in the earthquake; and

(d) how the Ministry propose to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) Railway lines/tracks	= 10 Sections
Bridges	= 107Nos.
Railway Station buidlings	= 124 Nos.
Station cabins	= 68 Nos.
Staff quarters	= 9820 Nos.